

# COVID-19 Response and Recovery Monthly Bulletin

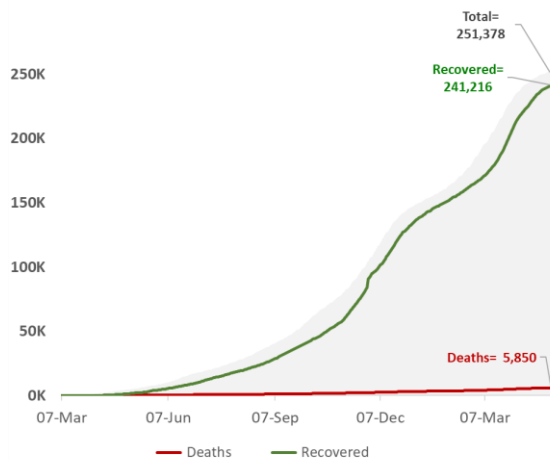
## April 2021



The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator / United Nations Moldova can be contacted at the following email address [rco.moldova@un.org](mailto:rco.moldova@un.org) or phone number (+373 22) 220 045

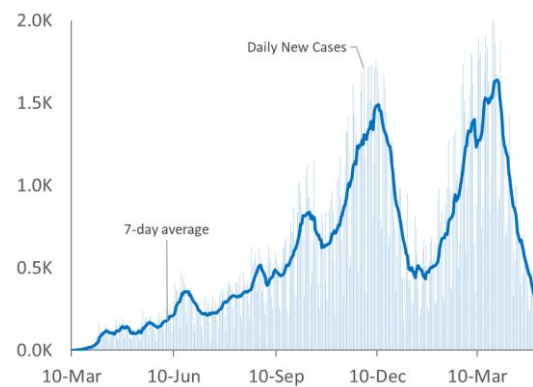
### 1 COVID-19 Epi and Health situation update (data as of 30 April unless stated otherwise)

Total Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



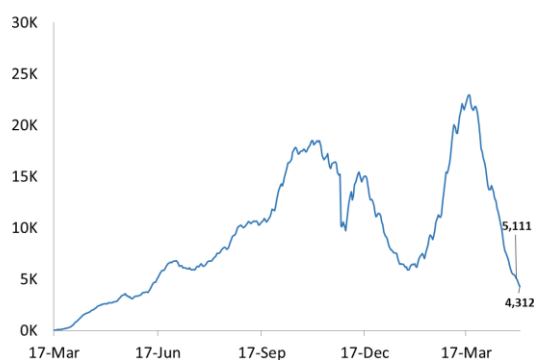
The total number of COVID-19 cases in the country has continued to increase and reached 250,837 at the end of April. The number increased further in the first three days of May and now stands at 251,378.

New Infections



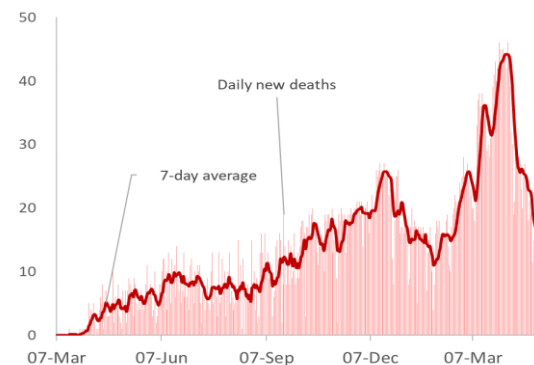
The number of new cases has decreased substantially and reached a 7-day average of 331 at the end of April compared to 1,377 at the beginning of the month.

Active Cases



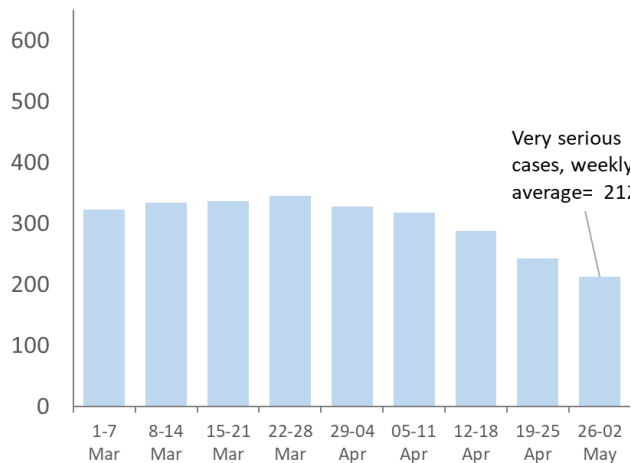
The number of active cases has decreased steadily over the past month and stood at 5,111 on April 30. It has continued to decrease over the first three days of May and is currently 4,312.

New Deaths



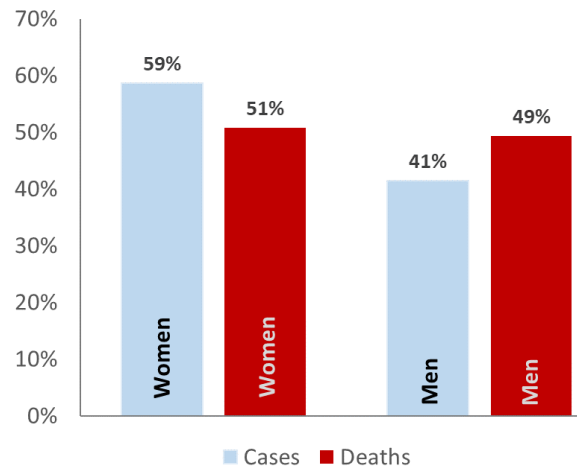
The 7-day average for the number of deaths has decreased substantially in April and by the end of the month it stood at 17.3. It further decreased to 14.4 by May 3. The total number of deaths was 5,812 at the end of April.

### Very Serious Cases



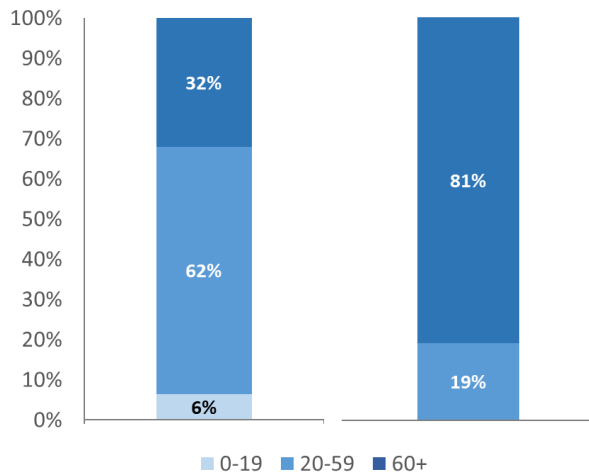
The average number of very serious cases decreased in April, reaching 212 in Apr 26-May 2. The total number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 at the end of the month was 1835, out of which 206 were in very serious condition.

### Cases and Deaths by Sex



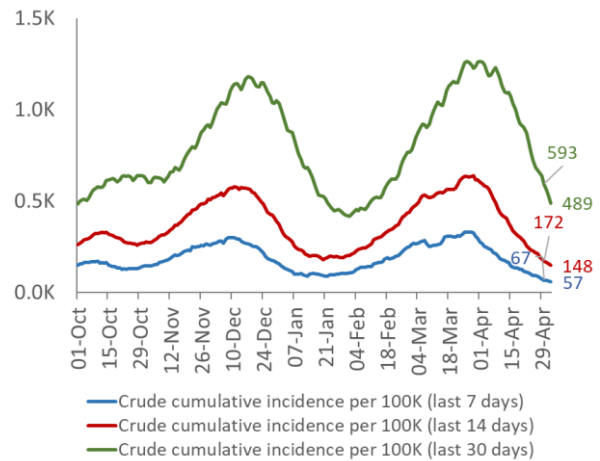
Overall, fifty-nine percent of all cases have been recorded among women and 41% among men. Moreover, women (51%) account for a slightly higher proportion of all deaths than men (49%).

### COVID-19 Cases/Death by Age Group



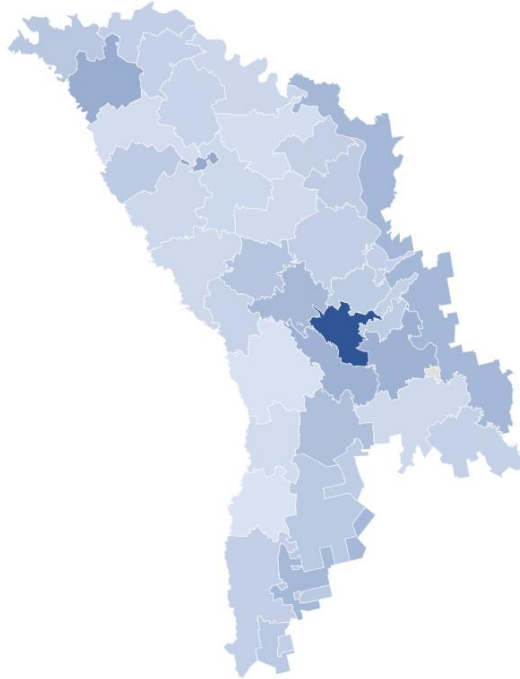
Even though infections among people aged 60 and over account for 32% of the total number of cases, 81% of all deaths have been registered in this age group. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 67.7.

### Cumulative Incidence per 100,000 over the Last 7, 14, and 30 Days



At the end of April, the crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 population for the last 7, 14 and 30 days was 67, 172, and 593, respectively. All these numbers registered a significant decrease over the past month and continued to decrease over the first days of May. The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases stood at 7,221 per 100,000 on the last day of April.

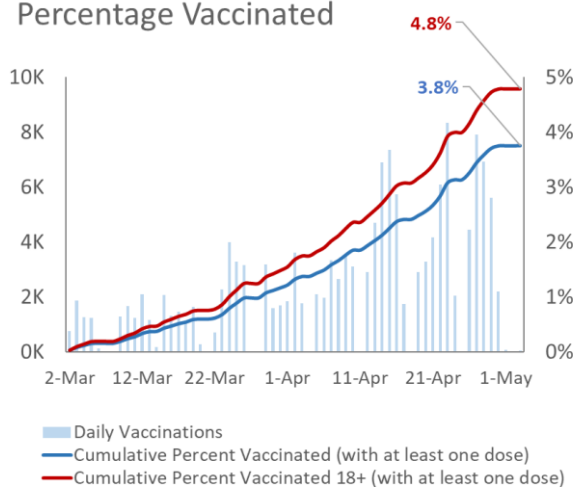
### Cases per 100,000 by District



Chisinau is the most affected area with nearly 16,000 cases per 100,000 population. Eleven other areas have also passed the 5,000 cases per 100,000 population mark.

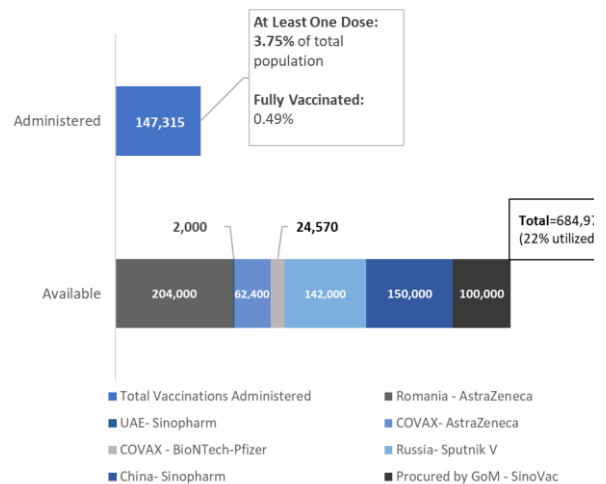
Chisinau	15,946
Balti	8,022
Edinet	7,782
Ialoveni	7,335
Anenii Noi	7,335
Transnistria	6,818
Taraclia	6,698
Straseni	6,621
Cimislia	6,100
Calarasi	5,456
Briceni	5,342
ATU Gagauzia	5,117

### Daily Vaccinations and Percentage Vaccinated



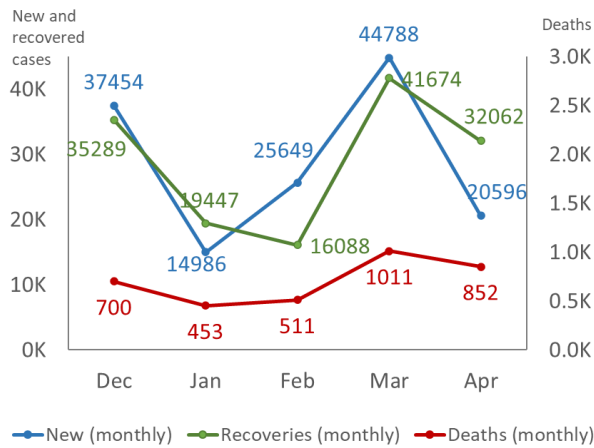
The number of vaccinations administered in the last seven days of April was 29,094, marking a 10% increase compared to the previous period. Overall, an estimated 3.8% of the country's population or 4.8% of the population aged 18+ has received at least one vaccine dose.

### Administered and Available Vaccines



As of April 30, a total of 147,315 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. Overall, 4% of the country's population has received at least one dose and 0.49% have received two vaccine doses. Over 537,000 vaccine doses remain currently available for use.

### Monthly Data: New Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



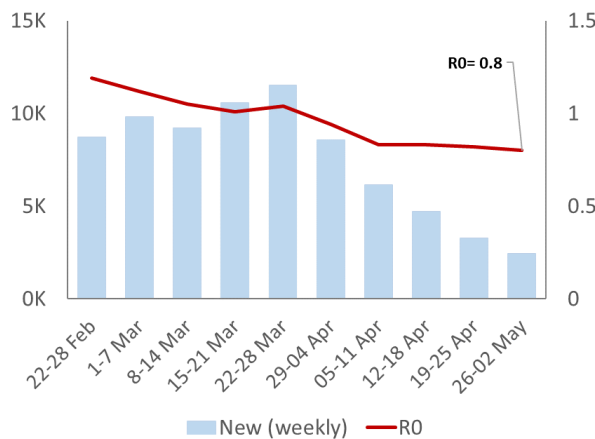
The number of cases in April decreased by 54% compared to the previous month and reached 20,596. The number of deaths decreased by 16%. The monthly number of recoveries also reflected the reduction in cases and decreased by 23%.

### Weekly Data: New Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



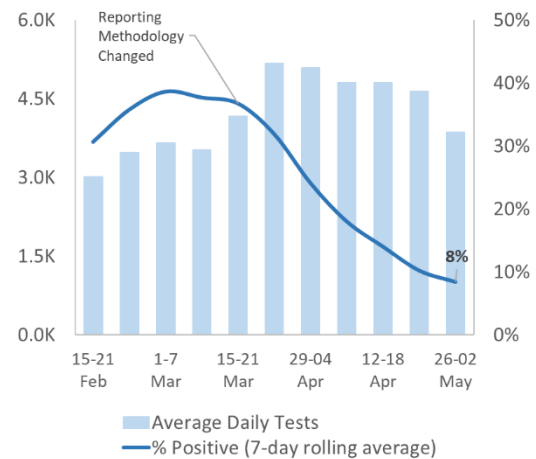
The number of weekly cases continuously decreased the entire month and reached 2,437 for the week of Apr 26- May 2. This represents a 25% decrease compared to the previous period. The number of deaths and recoveries paralleled the overall reduction in cases.

### COVID 19 Weekly Cases and Contagion Rate (R0)



The contagion rate remained below 1 throughout the entire month of April. As of April 25, the contagion rate stood at 0.82 and further decreased to 0.80 in the last days of the month. Currently, the rate is uneven across regions, with the lowest rates being registered in Nisporeni (0.56) and the highest in Basarabeasca (1.16). The contagion rate in Chisinau stood at 0.77.

### Average Daily Tests and Positivity Rate



The percentage of positive cases has continuously decreased over the course of the month. This decrease has also coincided with a change of the reporting methodology on Mar 19. Starting then, reporting has no longer disaggregated tests on whether they were primary or subsequent.

## 1.1 Restrictions\*

---

\*These are subject to changes and amendment and should be viewed as an overview and not as a definitive source for decision making.

- The [state of emergency on the territory of the country](#) instituted by the Parliament on April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> has been cancelled by the a [Decision](#) of the Constitutional Court from April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- The restrictions regime and measures on COVID-19 pandemic are regulated, in this context, by the Extraordinary National Commission in Public Health. Its latest [Decision, No. 57 from 29 April 2021](#) decrees the following:
  - All administrative-territorial units with Red Code alert will institute an emergency situation in public health
  - Prevention measures established at national level include: wearing of protective masks in all public spaces, keep min 1m social distance, observe hygienic and respiratory rules, observe the self-isolation regime for those prescribed, monitoring of health conditions and early addressing for medical help if necessary
  - Public entities need to ensure a physical attendance of offices of only strictly necessary staff and ensure the rest have conditions to work remotely
  - Border crossing – all travelers need to show up a negative PCR test (>72h) or declare on personal responsibility the observance of 14 days self-quarantine, or show a vaccination certificate with a series of exceptions for students, truck/bus drivers etc.
  - Educational process- will institute measures according to the number of infections in each of institutions. Graduation classes will have mixed regime of physical and on-line attendance
  - Shops, malls, public catering units, cultural and religious institutions will ensure all epidemiological and sanitation measures are strictly observed by the personnel and clients/visitors

## 2 General situation update

---

### 2.1 Political update

---

- By end of March, the President submitted a request to the Constitutional Court to consider that all the conditions had been met to call for early elections. In a somewhat related occurrence, the Government has asked the Parliament to consider declaring the state of emergency to strengthen measures and restrictions to address the COVID-19 crisis, including postponing the organization of any elections during the state of emergency period. The parliament approved with the votes of PSRM, SOR and 3 independent MPs the bill that have imposed the state of emergency till 31st of May. However, the Moldovan President, the PAS party and the civil society have criticized the document as it was ambiguous and generated uncertainty about further actions to be taken by the authorities, the only reason for imposing such restrictions being considered the need of the ruling Socialist and SOR parties to delay the snap elections.
- On late April, the parliament has voted a significant number of controversial bills, part of which were meant to support the vulnerable groups of citizens putting at additional strength the already weak budget. On the last parliamentary sessions, the Socialist and SOR MPs have submitted a vote of no confidence to 3 judges of the Constitutional Court, but also, they have voted to dismiss the Head of CC and to nominate Boris Lupascu as the 6th judge. The international community have criticized in-corpore those initiatives and four days of protests have followed, being resumed with the decision from 27 of April, stating that the interference into the Court activity or its structure is unconstitutional. Other important decisions

have followed, among them the imposed state of emergency and the transition of intelligence service under the parliament control being also declared unconstitutional.

- On 28 of April the President emitted the decree of parliament dissolution and announced the date for parliamentary snap elections - 11 of July.
- According to the results of the last poll conducted by IRI institute, with the financial support of USAID, 5 parties were credited with chances to accede to the next parliament, among them: PAS 33% of the expressed preferences, PSRM 19%, Renato Usatyî's 6%, Shor Party and PPPDA being at the limit of the 5% threshold. Considering that diaspora and left bank citizens have not been included in the exercise and that they counted about 10% of the total number of the electorate at the presidential elections, there are significant risks that only PAS, PSRM, and Usatyî's party will accede in the end to the new parliament.
- The kidnapping of the Ukrainian judge – Ceaus, in Chisinau had a significant resonance, with bad impact on the bilateral relationship between Moldova and Ukraine. So far, no progress on the case resolution have been registered, with no understanding on who are the responsible actors or the authors of the kidnapping.
- Last negative evolutions at the East border of Ukraine, with continuous concentration of Russian and Ukrainian military forces, along with the maneuvers performed by NATO troops are escalating tensions in the region. Despite the fact that the Russian Minister of Defense announced that the Russian troops will withdraw to the initial positions, no significant progress was registered. In consequence Ukraine has reinforced its border with Moldova, especially on the Transnistria region segment.

## 2.2 Economic and social update

---

- According to the [NBS](#), the *industrial production* (in gross series) grew by 2.4% in *February 2021* versus previous month which was stipulated by the increase in volume and prices for energy (by 32.5%). In seasonally adjusted series the industrial production declined by 1.1% versus the same period of 2020 as a result of decline in extractives (-16.9%) and manufacturing (-7.3%), while energy industry showed increase by 19.2%.
- In terms of *external trade*, Moldova's exports were by 14.3% higher in *February* versus January 2021, while still by 7.5% lower compared to same month of 2020. In terms of value, Moldova's exports were by 8.6% lower in January-February than compared to same period of 2020. Noteworthy that exports of local products declined during first two months by 11.2% versus same period of 2020. Conversely, net re-exports grew by 0.8% in the same period. Noteworthy that the share of classic re-exports in total export structure stood at 16.6% while re-exports after processing is almost twice lower accounting for only 8.6%. Exports in the EU during January-February 2021 declined by 12.9% while exports to the CIS increased by 12.7% compared to the same period of 2020. In terms of export destination, the leading are Romania (26.5% of total exports), followed by Germany (11%), Turkey (10.7%), Russia (9.4%), Italy (6.1%), Poland (4.1%), Ukraine (3.2%), Czech Republic (3.1%), Belorussia (2.6%), Hungary and Switzerland (by 1.7%). Export structure is dominated by the vehicles and automobile equipment (25.3%), other manufactured goods (20.9), food and livestock (19.5%), non-consumable goods (12.1%), manufactured goods (7.2%) and beverages and tobacco products (6.9%). Imports in February 2021 were by 29.8% less than in January 2021, while if to compare to same period of 2020 the decline is of 7.8%. Imports during January-February 2021 were by 6.8% higher than in 2020. Noteworthy that imports from the EU and the CIS grew by 6.4% and 0.1% respectively versus same period of 2020. In terms of import structure, Moldova imports the following items: vehicles and transportation equipment (25.6%), manufactured goods (17.3%), chemicals (14.6%), mineral fuel (13.6%), food and livestock (12.6%), other manufactured products (11.3%).

Population imported by 11.4% more during the two months of 2021 compared to the same period of 2020. Additional information could be found [here](#).

- The [NBS](#) informs that the global *agricultural production* in all types of households (agricultural enterprises, farms and population households) *in Q1'2021* was lower by 14% compared to the same period of 2020 primarily due to a decrease of livestock production. Livestock and poultry production declined by 13.1%, while number of cows and cattle within agrifarms increased by 16.5% and 12.3% due to Government subsidy program implementation. The total eggs production went down by 13.9%. Similarly, the total milk production declined by 14.6%, however the agricultural farms in the attempt to offset milk production decrease by population households increased their milk and dairy production by 1.1%.
- According to the [NBS](#), the *number of authorizations for constructions* of both, residential and non-residential buildings, *during Q1'2021* increased by more than a half compared to the same period of 2020. Most constructions are in the central part of Moldova, including Chisinau Municipality.
- *Annual inflation rate* continued its upward trend since 2021 reaching 1.49% *in March*. The prices increase occurred on the account of higher prices for food products (3.02%), non-foods (2.34%), yet lower prices for services (-1.89%). The consumers prices for food products in March versus February were stipulated by higher prices for sunflower oil (+7.2%), vegetables (+6.4%), wheat flour (+ 1.9%), while prices for eggs declined by 5.7%. The non-foods prices went up by 5% triggered primarily by fuel prices hike: gas prices went up by 7.4%, diesel – by 7.3%, petrol – by 7.2%, woods for heating – by 1.1%. Additionally, in March 2021 the prices for airfare increased by 1.7% versus previous month, while prices for kindergarten services went down by 1.1%, and external tourism services declined by 0.4%. More detailed information can be found [here](#).
- The overall *producer's prices* went up by 1.7% *in March* versus February 2021, however if to compare with March 2020 the prices are significantly higher – by 7.2%, while the overall price increase since January 2021 was 3.9%. If to compare the producers prices for extractives and processing industries the similar pace of growth was observed in March versus February, however compared to the same period of 2020 the prices for extractives are by 4.7% higher, while prices for manufacturing are by 8.7% higher. Energy prices remained the same as in February, however if to compare with March 2020 there is a reduction of 10.8%. Noteworthy that the prices for capital goods grew by 8.7% compared to December 2021. A more detailed information can be found [here](#).
- According to the [NBS](#), the *R&D activity in 2020* was carried out in 69 institutions, out of which 39 research centers, 5 higher education institutions and 7 - other types of organizations. Most institutions engaged in R&D are public. Out of 4,052 staff engaged in research more than a half are women, while about 40% of staff doing research hold a PhD degree. By topics, majority of R&D activity was conducted in the field of natural science (33.9%) while the smallest share is in humanitarian field (8.2%). Women dominate in medical, social and humanitarian research, while men are dominating in research linked to the natural science, agriculture and engineering and technology. In 2020 the state budget spent 0.23% of GDP for R&D.
- According to the [NBS](#), the *2020 population's monthly disposable income* per person reached 3,096.6 MDL which is by 7.5% in absolute terms (or by 3.6% in real terms) higher versus 2019. Salary is the primary source of revenue generating activity accounting for 50.2% of total population incomes. Social allocations are the second largest source of revenue accounting for 19.3% of disposable monthly incomes. Freelance activity contributes to revenue generating by 14.6%, while agricultural independent activity contributes by 8.3% and non-agricultural individual activity accounts for 6.3%. Remittances remain an important source of income for many Moldovan households accounting for 12.9% of total incomes. In 2020 incomes of urban households were on average by 1.4 times higher than those in rural areas. Urban population

relies more on salaries (61%) and social allocations (17.9%), while rural population generates less revenue from salaries (40.5%) and social allocations (20.4%) and agricultural activity (15.2%) being additional sources of income. Rural people depend more on remittances (16.1%) versus their urban residents (9.4%). Monthly consumers expenses reached 2,791.2 MDL in 2020 which in nominal terms remained largely the same, while in real terms Moldova's population spent by 3.5 times less in 2020 than in previous year. In terms of spending structure, the highest share pertains to food consumption (43.5%) followed by utilities (16.1%), clothing (8.8%), furnishing of house (5.6%), transport (5.5%), healthcare (4.7%), telecommunications (4.7%).

### 2.3 Education system situation update

---

- According to the [NBS](#), there were 1,485 of active early childhood education institutions in Moldova, including 808 - nursery schools, 568 kindergartens, 90 school-kindergartens, 17 community centers and 2 nurseries registered in Moldova by the end of 2020.
- According to the [latest updated data](#) from the Ministry of Education, on April 26, following the decision of the Territorial Commissions in Public Health and the local specialized bodies in the field of education - 64 (5.16%) general education institutions operate exclusively online; - 198 (15.97%) institutions work with a program with physical participation of primary school students, as well as a contingent of 50% of the total number of graduate students; - 346 (27.90%) institutions carry out the educational process with the physical presence of students in primary education and students in graduate classes; - 633 (51.05%) institutions operate with the physical presence of students in educational institutions, in strict compliance with public health norms on the prevention and spread of COVID-19. At the same time, on April 26, due to the increase in cases of illness with COVID-19, 3 other institutions (0.24%) in the country and 37 classes (0.23%) were placed in quarantine and conducting distance studies.

### 2.4 Gender and Human Rights

---

- Starting with April 2021, fair access to justice in Moldova during the pandemic was ensured via e-justice rooms. The UNODC and the Moldovan National Prison Administration established four remote justice rooms. The latter have been built within the most overcrowded detention centres of the country in Chisinau, Balti, Rezina and Cahul. These e-justice rooms contribute to the modernization of the Moldovan justice system related to court hearings, administrative and persecution investigation processes. The implementation of the e-justice rooms shall lead to *streamlining* the justice procedure, *reducing the time and expenses* related to criminal proceedings. This will ensure access to justice, decreasing concurrently the large numbers of people leaving temporarily the prisons and, thus, mitigating the risk of COVID-19 infection. Each room has got cabins fitted with equipment for videoconferences, via which the person held in detention or under criminal proceedings may participate in the trial, discuss with his/her lawyer or the prosecutor and, of course, may communicate with his/her family members, relatives or friends. Likewise, the cabins are separated by glass windows with intercom system, so that the lawyers or prosecutors may come to the prison and talk to the persons held in detention or under criminal proceedings, without having any physical contact with them. Moreover, the minors held in prison remand centres may continue the education process, having access to on-line classes. All anti-COVID-19 measures are observed within the cubicle, as it is fitted with a ventilation system, germicide lamp and disinfectant dispenser. Another important matter is that the new cubicles secure also confidentiality of discussions held within, regardless whether they are held online or offline, as the whole cubicle is soundproof.
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Moldovan penitentiary administration has faced numerous requests to escort detainees to the prosecutor's office, courts or public institutions to continue



the trial or prosecution process. The physical movement of these persons, as well as of the prison staff, implies major risks of infection with COVID-19 and, respectively, the creation of an outbreak inside the penitentiary institution. Total number of nearly 6,450 people are deprived of their liberty at this moment, out of this number, 166 prisoners were infected with the new coronavirus. During 2020 year, a number of 2,500 new entries in the penitentiary system was attested, out of which 1000-1050 persons were put in preventive detention. Only in the last week, there were 948 requests for escorts prisoners in the criminal justice process and 710 of these requests could take place through the teleconferencing system.

- At the same time, a number of 166 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed among the prisoners since the beginning of the Pandemic. Currently, there are 4 active cases under the treatment. Among the employees of the penitentiary system, 430 positive cases of COVID-19 were registered and in two cases, the people did not survive the virus. During the home-schooling period, juvenile detainees from Cahul penitentiary, used the E-room equipment in order to participate at the on-line education process and also to communicate with their close relatives as parents and sisters/brothers.
- The authorities of the Republic of Moldova have vaccinated against COVID-19 all asylum-seekers residing in the country's only reception centre on 1 April 2021.
- Mr. Gheorghiu, the State Secretary on Youth and Sport of the Republic of Moldova, emphasized the importance to include the needs of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in the international policy agenda. He stated that policies shall be backed by determination and clear mechanisms to promote the social and financial inclusion of the young people. He also stressed the importance of solidarity during the pandemic and addressing the needs of those most underprivileged. He provided concrete examples of multi-intersectoral investments that are currently planned and aligned with areas of adolescent well-being during the 10th ECOSOC Youth Forum Side Event on "Uniting for adolescents during Covid-19 and beyond" held on April 6th, 2021. Over 750 people from 109 countries registered for the event.
- The conclusions of the discussions are expected to be included in the report on the ECOSOC Youth Forum to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in July 2021, setting out an action plan based on the adolescent well-being framework, their experiences and expanding the support to the Call to Action by UN member states, civil society, and young people.
- The event was co-hosted by Costa Rica and Philippines and co-organized by PMNCH, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNESCO, Plan International, United for Global Mental Health, Child Health Initiative, The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, UN Major Group for Children & Youth, Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety and Relentless Development. "

## 2.5 Transnistria region

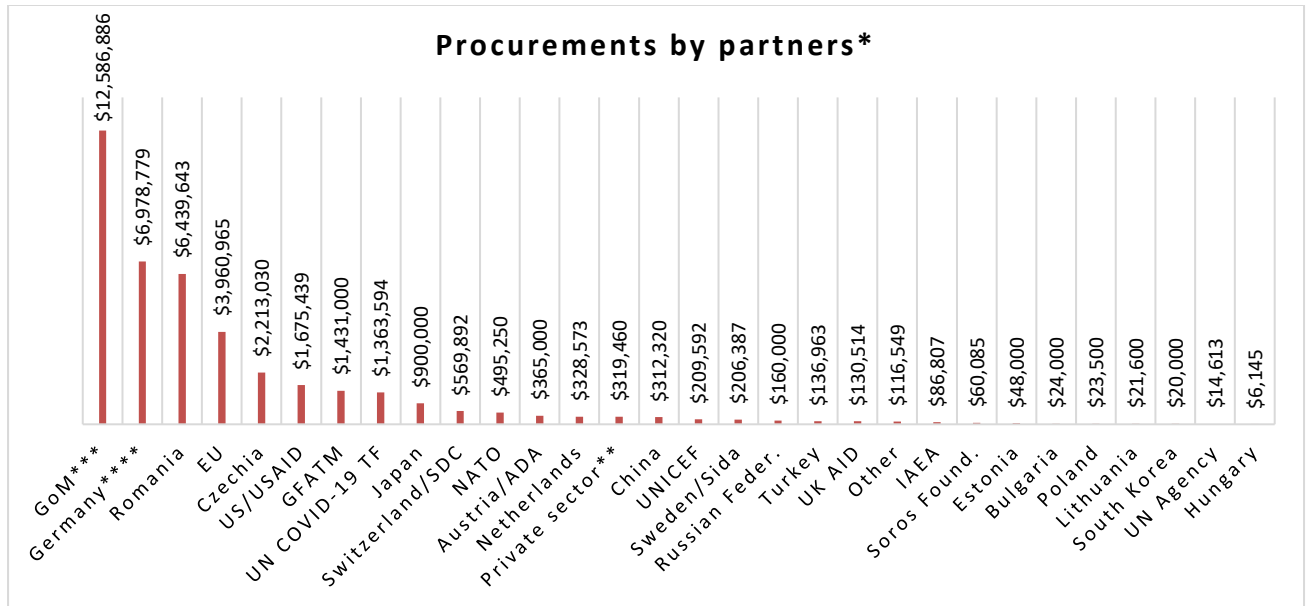
---

- At the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) session in Strasbourg, on 19 of April, the President of Moldova stated that there is no quick solution to the Transnistrian conflict, but special attention shall be paid to aspects like the security, human rights, and any other social issues faced by the left bank citizens. Also, she said that Moldova looks for a solution to the conflict, which should involve all political forces.
- From 30 April to 10 May, during the Easter break, left bank citizens will be allowed to cross the administrative boundary line freely and the prior approval from the de-facto authorities will be not required.
- The Head of OSCE Mission to Moldova have met with the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration to review the negotiations' agenda, including areas as human rights, freedom of movement, road transportation the way the pandemic is handled on both banks of the Nistru River. Later a working meeting was organized in Bender with the participation of the Head of OSCE Mission, the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, and the political representative from Tiraspol.

- The working groups have met to agree on road transportation issues and to improve the functioning of the two Vehicle Registration Offices.
- The volume of industrial production has reached its maximum values in the Transnistria region compared to the last few years. The growth was mainly supported by metallurgy, electric power industry, food and light industry.

## 2.6 Aid Coordination - data on procurements for COVID-19

### Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova

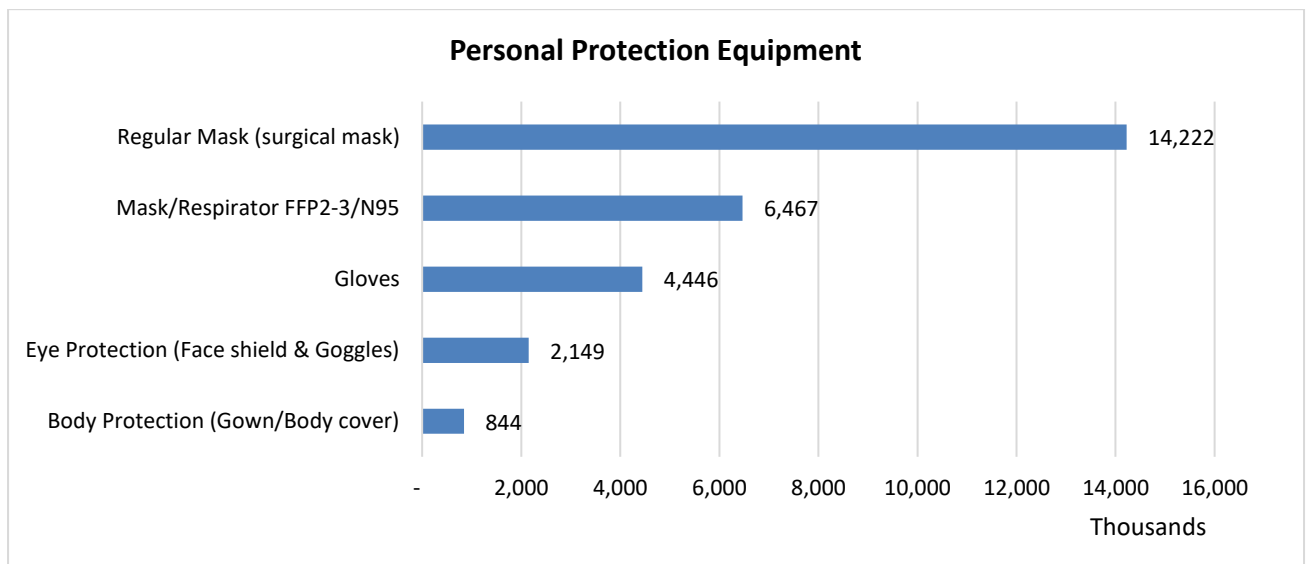


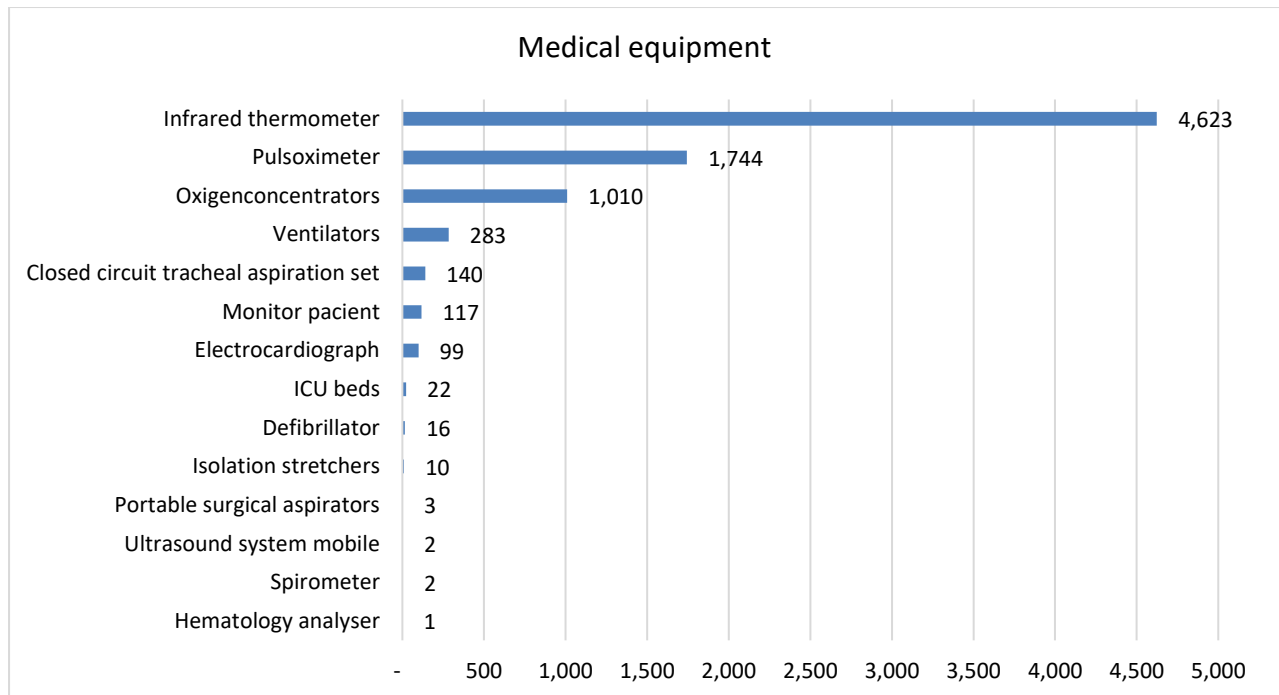
\*Note - data only for contracted/procured PEEs, medical equipment and technical assistance COVID related. Committed and/or pledged contributions are not reflected. Data are captured from various sources, i.e. media and may not be accurate. The process of reflecting donors/contributions is ongoing, and data is updated once details of procured items are confirmed. For more information, please send an email to [veaceslav.palade@un.org](mailto:veaceslav.palade@un.org) and/or [garami@who.int](mailto:garami@who.int)

\*\* Private sector companies: Endava, Orange Moldova, Lismedfarm SRL, Moldretail Grup SRL, Kaufland, Moldcell Moldova, Starnet SRL, Gedeon Rihter, Farmacia Familiei SRL, Svibmagtex SRL, Miso Textile SRL, Zernoff SRL, Aromcom SRL, Art Vest SRL, Dita Est Farm SRL, Tetis International Co SRL, Rihpangalfarma SRL, Sonaris Com

\*\*\* The procurements of the Government of RM include the materials and supplied procured from the WB loan: Moldova Emergency COVID-19 Response Project

\*\*\*\*The amounts indicated for Germany include delivered as well as planned deliveries of assistance





- 300 oxygen concentrators with consumables for 6 months and 1,6Mn gloves for examination have arrived on 13 April and 28 April 2021 accordingly. The humanitarian shipment was supported by the WHO under the Project “EU COVID-19 Solidarity Programme for the Eastern Partnership”. The donation was funded by EU DGNEAR. Overall cost of received equipment is USD 650,000. The equipment was distributed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection into municipal and regional hospitals and Primary Health Care institutions, including Transnistrian region.
- UNICEF procured and transported to the Institute for Emergency Medicine 10 oxygen concentrators, Oxygen delivery devices and other consumables. In addition, 80,000 surgical masks, 24,800 FFP2 respirators, 10,000 face shields, 200,000 gloves for health facilities staff were procured for front line health workers.

### 3 UN Social and Economic Response and Recovery Portfolio update

Please access <https://covid19response.un.md/> to see the Plan and the Project Portfolio in more detail, including on-going projects and initiatives still requiring financing.

#### 3.1 Pillar 1: HEALTH FIRST: protecting health services and systems during the crisis

- UNDP, in partnership with WHO and UNICEF and the Ministry of Health are jointly working on the development of a special SMS web-gate for the vaccination e–registry platform; the gate will allow for the sending of push SMS notifications to citizens registering for the vaccination; about 10 mil. SMS messages will be shared via this web-gate up until the end of the vaccination campaign in the country.
- UNICEF supported two online trainings during 23-24 of April for obstetricians-gynecologists, neonatologists, pediatricians, and midwives from Perinatal Centers at levels I, II and III. Around 100 OBGYN and neonatologists learned about referral and inpatient care of pregnant and lactating women in the context of COVID19 pandemics, nutrition of a pregnant women and support for breastfeeding women in the context of COVID pandemics. The measures that ensure IPC, and prevention of parent-to- child HIV transmission in perinatal centers were addressed with specialists from National Agency of Public Health, and specialized HIV Center. Training courses were organized in partnership with Nova Association for Women and Children, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Institute of Mother and Child Health and Medical University.

- Two training events on antenatal care during the COVID-19 epidemic for specialists working in primary care in all districts of the republic, Chisinau and Balti (mother and child care specialists, obstetricians-gynecologists, pediatricians, family doctors) with UNICEF support took place on April 28-29. Around 120 primary health care specialists learned about provision of outpatient care services for pregnant women in the context of COVID-19 pandemics, nutrition of a pregnant women and support for breastfeeding in the context of COVID pandemics, HIV testing services especially of pregnant women in the context of pandemics through distance learning tools. In addition, front line health care workers learned about the latest protocols on IPC at the primary health care level, and on the implementation of the standard of antenatal care at the Primary Health Care level. Training courses were organized in partnership with Nova Association for Women and Children, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Coordination Unit of the National HIV /STI Prevention and Control Programme.
- Following the request of the Republican Center for Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities, UNICEF donated with financial support from USAID, 500 liters of disinfectant, 60 l of liquid soap, more than 2,800 diapers, 20 liters of baby cream and other WASH supplies for children with disabilities, beneficiaries of the Center and around 100 health facility's staff.
- Weekly Coordination meeting on vaccines for the Republic of Moldova is conducted jointly with representatives of the MoHLSP, EU Commission and WHO CO.
- WHO continues to provide support to MoHLSP in external aid coordination, informing partners and donors regarding the EPI situation and public health measures for COVID-19 public health emergency response. The needs assessment for the health system and resource mobilizations as well as devices and goods procurement were updated with WHO support, according to new estimations and available financial resources and donations. A databased with donor's contributions related to COVID-19 response is compiled by the WHO consultant and is available on the MoHLSP website.
- The exercise on costing of treated COVID-19 cases and suspected ones for pregnant woman, children and adults, by types of interventions and by severity of cases (severe ICU cases requiring assisted ventilation, medium severity cases that required connection to the oxygen source and low severity cases) conducted by a local team of experts guided by international consultant was finalized. In the same time, the analysis of DRG database for 2020 and January-February 2021 to estimate COVID-19 interventions (case management) impact on MHI funds was performed by international consultant and both exercise results were presented to MoHLSP and NHIC. The cost of treated COVID-19 cases provided by international consultant and local experts was approved by MoHLSP and National Health Insurance Company joint order and will be applied retrospectively, starting with January 2021 for all involved medical providers, covering in this context all expenses supported by public hospitals.
- WHO continues to provide technical assistance on strengthening national capacities in management of human resources for health. With WHO support, the draft guidelines on graduates distribution in medical facilities was developed and national nomenclature of medical specialties is in the process of updating according to the ISCO-8.
- The IT solution for reporting and monitoring hospital capacities developed with WHO support was adjusted according to the received proposals/ recommendations after piloting stage. The IT system will be launch in the entire country starting with 5th May 2021. The IT solution will help MoHLSP to monitor in terms of geographical distribution of hospital system resources and they're use in order to mobilize the available ones and ensure provision of healthcare services according to the needs and available forecasts.
- WHO offers support to the MoHLSP to conduct the assessment of hospitals capacities (infrastructure, human resources for health, devices, including oxygen sources and human resources) in response to COVID-19 pandemic. WHO have provided expert input to the methodology and assessment tool. The assessment with WHO support will be performed during May-June and the findings will be used for further MoHLSP policies and interventions to ensure efficient response of hospital system to COVID-19 pandemic,

rational use of capacities, identification and designation of referral facilities for care of patients with COVID-19, as well as revision of intensive care unit (ICU) capabilities and infrastructure.

- The bidding process for re-engineering of the electronic system for communicable diseases and public health events and Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) were finalized by the WHO CO. The IT solution development work will start in order to digitalize the national surveillance system for communicable diseases and public health events as well as to integrate the COVID-19 reporting.
- The Influenza (ILI and ARI) and SARI surveillance & virological sentinel surveillance allows to collect samples from nine sentinel sites situated around the country. In the up to 25 samples collected and tested every week for influenza viruses and SARS-CoV-2 had been identified only SARS-CoV-2 viruses.
- In the context of strengthening the International Health Regulation core capacities in the ground crossing Points of Entry in the period of 18-30 April 2021, WHO have been conducted a comprehensive assessment. In this regard four ground crossing PoE had been assessed from the perspective of early detection of the public health threats, risk assessment and public health measures implementation. Four ground crossing PoEs: Leuseni, Hincesti; Criva, Briceni; Tudora, Stefan Voda; and Ungheni have been visited by the representatives of the competent authorities (border police and customs service), National Agency for Public Health and National Agency Food Safety and MoHLSP.
- With WHO support during 19-23 April 2021 was conducted Training on the implementation of molecular biology techniques (RT-PCR) for testing COVID-19. The laboratory professionals from the subnational laboratories of the National Agency for Public Health were trained on COVID-19 PCR testing. The capacity building activities will allow improve the level of the knowledge of the public health professionals and scaling-up laboratory capacities for PCR testing.
- Two rounds of the training workshops on COVID-19 immunization have been conducted for the professionals, including for professionals from the vaccination centers from the primary health care facilities from both banks of the Nistru river. Vaccine delivery, storage conditions, vaccine safety monitoring as well as adverse events following immunization monitoring procedures were approached during the trainings.
- The e-registry for COVID-19 vaccination and programing as well as waiting list have been developed by the WHO jointly with professionals from the MoHLSP and NAPH. The e-registry enable MoHLSP to assure COVID-19 vaccine coverage monitoring. The COVID-19 vaccination programing and waiting list will facilitate the vaccine planning during the II-nd and III-rd phases.
- The WHO has coordinated the meetings on Adverse Event Following Immunization data collection and reporting between National Agency for Public Health and National Regulatory Agency. The AEFI reporting process was standardized. Further development is required in the context of pharmacovigilance improvement, signal detection and integration in the international reporting platform.
- WHO attended and shared updated vaccine safety information during the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) meetings. The NITAG had discussed and agreed on the several aspects associated with National Deployment Vaccine Plan implementation, distribution of the AstraZeneca vaccine, participation in the vaccine effectiveness studies.
- WHO continues to provide support to MoHLSP in external aid coordination, informing partners and donors regarding the EPI situation and public health measures for COVID-19 public health emergency response. The continuous needs assessment for the health system and resource mobilizations as well as devices and goods procurement are provided by the WHO support. A databased with donor's contributions related to COVID-19 response is compiled by the WHO consultant and is available on the MoHLSP website.

### 3.2 Pillar 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE: Social protection and basic services

- UNDP organized a video competition among young people from TAU Gagauzia focusing on e-learning during the pandemic within the project “Supporting e-learning in ATU Gagauzia”. Pupils shared their views on the future of e-education and became promoters of digital education.
- UNICEF and Child, Community, Family (CCF) Moldova, continued their partnership in providing training for teachers and school managers to ensure prevention of infectious diseases in schools. To this end, UNICEF and CCF, in coordination with MECR and National Agency for Public Health (NAPH), rolled out training for schoolteachers and managers in the context of school reopening. Some 2879 have been reached with training during the past month – and the cumulative number of staff in the education sector, since the start of training in Q4, 2020, reached 18,453 as of mid-April 2021. Of these 197 are staff from residential institutions, 1207 are managerial staff in schools, and 17049 are teaching personnel. About one-fifth of training sessions were held in Russian. The capacity building activities will continue until end of May 2021.
- To improve access to quality protection and services to children, a comprehensive draft Note, to be used by relevant local authorities, service providers, individual specialists and caregivers, in working with children during pandemic, has been submitted for review and approval by the Ministry of Health Labor and Social Protection in March. The Note has been developed following an initial mapping of specific child protection related areas of work affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the identification of main challenges and limitations faced by the child protection professionals. The document includes a comprehensive set of targeted guidelines for key professionals on how to better deliver assistance and services to families and children and ensure a unified approach to implementation of main cross-sectoral mechanisms and sectoral tools during pandemics.
- 14 localities from Cahul and Ungheni districts improved their online communication and transparency during COVID-19 pandemic with the support of UN Women in the framework of the EU funded EVA project. 78 key community stakeholders (68 women, 10 men) enhanced their digital skills as result of 42 hours of coaching on utilizing online tools for better engagement with citizens and increasing LPAs transparency.
- Two days trainings have been delivered to the NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights, 55 staff and volunteers of NGOs from both banks of Dniester river working at the national and local level<sup>1</sup>. The trainings have been provided by NGO Federatia Familiilor pentru Unificare si Pace in Lume din Moldova (FFUPLM) and focused on the use of PPEs, hand sanitizers, importance of other protective measures during COVID-19 pandemic in the context of providing services to their beneficiaries. In addition to this, the trainings covered subject related to stress management and self psycho-social support during COVID-19 pandemic. With support from OHCHR a session on Human Rights during COVID-19 has been provided and with support from UNICEF a Q&A session on vaccination was organized.
- In addition to this, the delivery of the first aid goods (food and hygienic products, PPEs) have been initiated for around 4100 persons, in vulnerable situations, including elderly persons, persons with disabilities and their families, left behind children, Roma people from vulnerable families and single mothers from both banks of Dniester, to improve their resilience against COVID-19. The delivery will be finalized by early May 2021.
- 1,600 leaflets for NGO Task Force reflecting the ways how to improve mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19 was printed and ready to be disseminated during May. All activities are realized under the MPTF

<sup>1</sup> Out of 55 participants, 92,7 % were women and 7,3 % men. Around 70% of participants were in the age group 31-50 years old. Majority of participants – 70.9% were from Urban localities. Out of the total number of participants, there were 3 people with disabilities, 4 survivors of domestic violence, 2 representatives of large families, 3 ethnic minorities, 5 elderly people and 2 representatives of roma community. Majority of participants – 83,6% represented NGOs with main domain – Social Work.

(ADA contribution) project “COVID-19 Response and Recovery Window of the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund (SDGPF)”.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the health and rights of people in prisons, jails and detention centres particularly harshly, casting the spotlight on long standing deficiencies in many criminal justice systems around the world. 4 remote e-justice rooms were recently introduced by UNODC and the Moldovan National Prison Administration in four most overcrowded Moldovan detention centres. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Moldovan Prison Administration has received frequent requests to escort persons detained in prison to attend trial or criminal proceedings in person. During the week from 12th to 16th of April there were 948 requests to escort prisoners outside the prison and continue with the criminal justice process. The movement of those individuals and of prison staff between facilities poses major risks of infection and could lead to deadly outbreaks of the coronavirus in prisons.
- The rooms feature cabins fitted with videoconference equipment, enabling persons held in detention to remotely participate in their trial, speak with lawyers or prosecutors and communicate with family members, relatives or friends. Minors held in prison remand centres can also use the cubicles to access to online classes and pursue their education. In line with necessary anti-COVID-19 measures, the cabins in the e-justice rooms are fitted with a ventilation system, germicide lamp and disinfectant dispenser. They are also separated by glass windows and equipped with an intercom system, enabling lawyers or prosecutors to come to the prison and talk to prisoners without having any physical contact. Crucially, the cubicles are soundproofed to protect the confidentiality of discussion, whether they are held online or offline. The Moldova National Prison Administration stated: “With the help of [the] new multifunctional rooms located in those four prisons we manage to triple the number of requests to attend the trials.”

### 3.3 Pillar 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY: Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector and workers

---

- UNDP organized the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Task force meeting on 21 April 2021. The UNICEF study on Multi-deprivation of children at the district level of Rezina was presented during the meeting along with the areas of focus of the Swiss Development Cooperation strategy.
- UNDP organized a virtual Trade Forum has been organized during 28-30 April 2021 within the Cross-River Capacities for Trade project, funded by Sweden. The Forum has been envisaged as a broad dialogue with public and private actors, development partners, think tanks and academia on the global trends in trade, as well as recovery solutions for Moldovan exporters affected by COVID -19 generated economic recession. The forum continued with two-day match-making sessions which will bring together European importers and Moldovan suppliers.
- More than 100 women and women entrepreneurs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, enhanced the abilities and capacities on solidarity and participation in the decision making process after an online [peer-to-peer event](#). Women talked about the challenge’s women entrepreneurs face during the pandemic as well as the existing measures aimed at reducing the negative impact of COVID-19.
- Around 30 women entrepreneurs from the Republic of Moldova participated in an online [exhibition](#) for women entrepreneurs from Europe and Central Asia. The exhibition took place between April 27-29. The purpose of the exhibition was to support and empower women entrepreneurs during and after the pandemic. The activities are realized under the Japan support within the “Responding to the urgent needs of women and girls in marginalized and vulnerable situation exacerbated by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Europe and Central Asia” project.
- Three policy papers files were developed by ODIMM under the Japan supported project on women entrepreneurs, meant to offer the first aid in case of serious damages or potential bankruptcy (mechanism for a “2nd chance program”). The Policy Paper contain recommendations on women’s inclusion in existing/ future projects and in the new, on the way to be launched “SMEs Second Chance” Program.

- ODIMM will have more programs compliance with the gender equality criteria as an internal evaluation mechanism was developed and applied in practice. The tools allows to diagnose the degree of inclusion for women in all existing Support Programs and adaptation of future Programs to the principle of equal opportunities between women and men. Business Readiness Assessment Index is defined as result of a study concerning the impact of the project interventions on women-led SMEs.
- A comprehensive questionnaire was developed and will be applied to approximately 100 women beneficiaries within the Japan supported project: Responding to the urgent needs of women and girls in marginalized and vulnerable situation exacerbated by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Europe and Central Asia.
- A group of 30 women and girls from underrepresented groups will benefit of the capacity building activities on financial literacy. For this a training curriculum will be developed (at least 20 hours overall duration) by a consortium formed by IDIS Viitorul and Proactive SRL.
- 5 best business ideas of 30 participants were presented in front of a jury panel and received valuable advices on how to improve and further develop the business. A set of prizes from UN Women were provided for the best ideas during online Demo-day with participants on April 15. This was a result of the second online start-up pre-acceleration program in STEM under the Japan supported project (a 6 weeks program which covers 8 training sessions and 8 follow-up mentoring sessions on entrepreneurship, designing and innovating, gender equality rights and women empowerment principles and others).

### 3.4 Pillar 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

---

- NTR

### 3.5 Pillar 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

---

- UNDP launched an open project proposals competition has been launched within the EU-funded Focal Regions programme, aiming at improving access to local public services and community infrastructure, in support of recovery efforts in Cahul and Ungheni focal regions. Within the same programme, in order to support the digitalization of public services, a virtual study visit to Estonia for Ungheni and Cahul municipalities on One Stop Shops and SMART solutions for local public authorities.

## 4 Communications and Advocacy

---

- UNICEF and WHO continues to provide support to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and National Agency of Public Health with National communication campaign on Immunization Against COVID-19. Several links to communication materials below:
  - An [Online interview](#) with Ninel Revenco on procurement and transportation of COVID-19 vaccines into the Republic of Moldova
  - [Visibility](#) on the third COVAX delivery in Moldova
  - A series of stories of doctors vaccinated against COVID-19 [\\_links here](#) and [here](#)
  - An animated explanatory video for general population on how to electronically register for COVID-19 vaccination.
- UNICEF [delivered](#) to the Institute of Emergency Medicine a batch of personal protective equipment and consumables for oxygen concentrators.
- UNICEF jointly with WHO supported the World Immunization week 23-30 April by:
  - [Online interview](#) with Maxim Calaras, an obstetrician gynecologist, on HPV vaccination
  - [Online interview](#) with Olga Cirstea, a pediatrician, on child routine immunization



- UNICEF [participated](#) in the Global Social Media activation on importance of routine immunization
- [Observing European Immunization Week 2021](#) – initiation of open hour in schools on routine immunization and benefits of vaccines
- The results of the 4th wave of the COVID-19 Behavioural Insights study in the Republic of Moldova were presented by WHO. A national press release on main findings released, and a series of visuals produced. More results [here](#) and [here](#).
- WHO with EU support observed the World Health Day 2021 and promoted images of the front-line health professionals during pandemic- [WHO and UE partnership/photo project](#).